

Nation



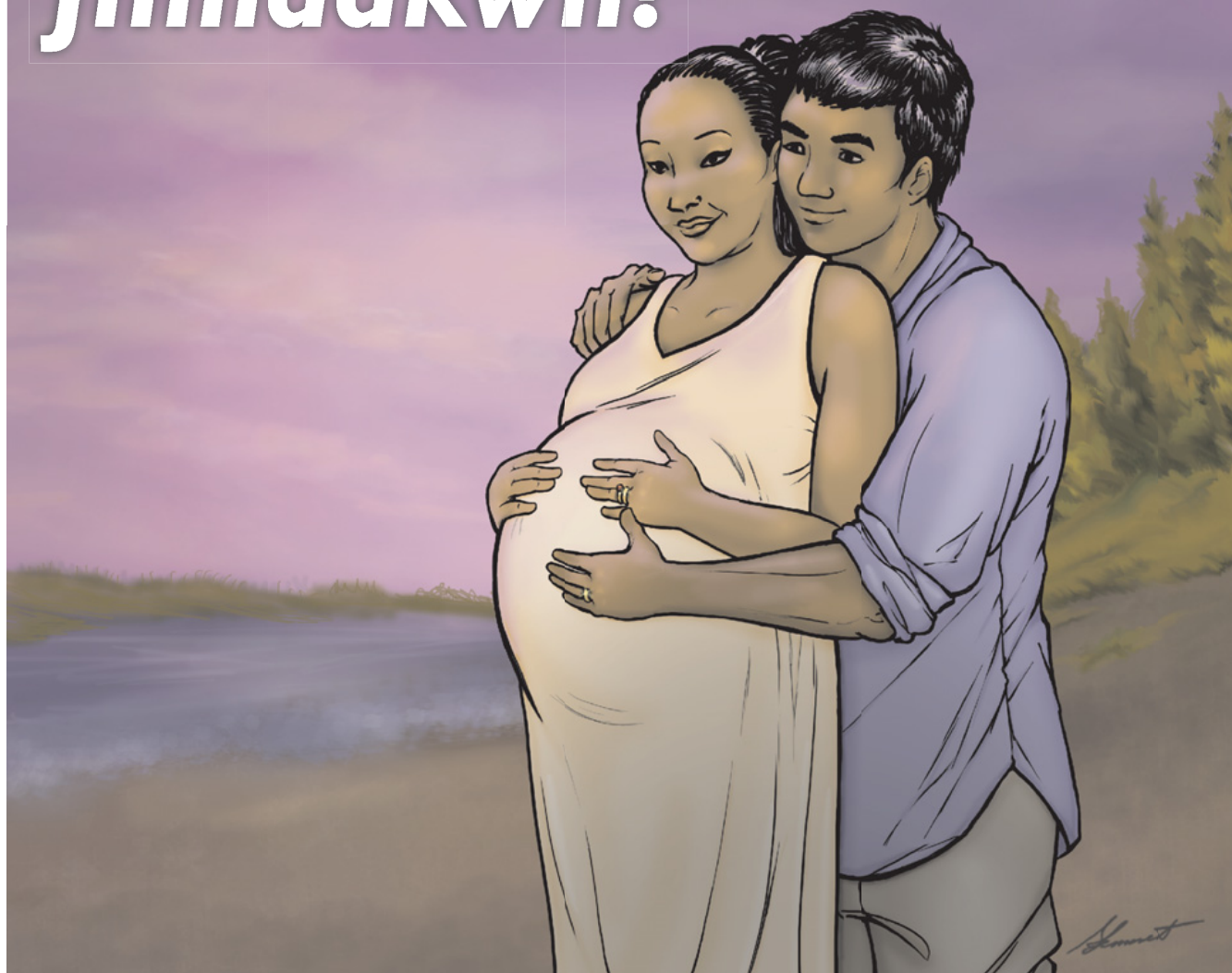
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Bad faith

By Will Nicholls

The federal Specific Claims Tribunal is on the chopping block and October 16 is the execution date. This sudden and radical policy change has many First Nations worried. About 65 current land claims negotiations with First Nations will be immediately affected. Negotiators are saying that government representatives are telling them they will be offered a "take it or leave choice." After October 16, all offers will be taken off the table.

As lawyer and land-claims negotiator Alan Pratt noted, "Meetings are being cancelled, and the negotiators are telling the First Nations and their advisors that they will be preparing – the federal side will be preparing a 'take or leave it' offer." Pratt said his colleagues and their First Nation clients see this change in direction as a betrayal.

The government didn't consult any other parties to the negotiations, which many say reveals a lack of good faith. "The government must continue to negotiate in good faith, in adherence with its own established policies on specific claims," said the Liberal critic for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Carolyn Bennett.

Indeed, the concept of good faith is something that has always been part of speeches by all parties. In this case, the legal definition of good faith means an honest intent to act without taking an unfair advantage over another person or to fulfil a promise to act, even when some legal technicality is not fulfilled. The term is applied to all kinds of transactions.

It is something that is important not only within a nation but is recognized worldwide. "Good faith is a fundamental principle of international law, without which all international law would col-

lapse," said Judge Mohammed Bedjaoui, former President of the International Court of Justice. In addition the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties provides: "Pacta sunt servanda: Every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith."

First Nations groups say the move is an ultimatum that betrays the spirit of the Specific Claims Tribunal Act. "A decision to terminate negotiations ought to be based on the principles of good faith, respect and mutuality, rather than arbitrariness and unilateralism," the AFN chiefs said in a resolution passed at the AFN Annual General Assembly in Moncton, New Brunswick.

First Nations chiefs have a right to be concerned. The Specific Claims Tribunal is only authorized to give out \$250 million in settlements per year, for 10 years, and no settlement can be bigger than \$150 million. These amounts at times don't even come close to being reasonable.

Good faith is an important component in this issue. What the Conservatives have done will come back to haunt Canadians.

NDP MP Romeo Saganash said the decision is unconstitutional because the federal government must respect its fiduciary duties and obligations. An unfair hardship will be placed on First Nations that is cumbersome and high in proportion to any benefits they may eventually receive. In simple and legal terms, the Canadian government is intentionally failing to discharge its obligations toward First Nations with this decision. A Conservative lack of faith will cost more money in the long run and 65 First Nations have to suffer without a resolution in sight unless they agree to a one-sided deal.

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photos by:
Will Nicholls

Making peace movies...

By Sonny Orr



I mentioned in the last issue, a movie in the making was in the works just north of 55. That was two weeks ago and the saga continues...

After a few weeks of planning and auditions, the mix matched crew of intrepid film makers decided to go to a remote location, far north of Great Whale River, to the land where the trees are much smaller. The arctic tundra, abound with winged, aquatic and four legged creatures would soon be interrupted by the two legged kind. Yes, the famous Nastapoka region, the half way point where the land of the Cree meets its extremities and meets the land of the Inuit. This is the place where the wars of old ended with a peace pact. This historic occasion is now being commemorated but the ancestors of those who made peace, not war.

Wars have often been fought over many different reasons, but the outcome is always the same, some lose and some win. But in war, the winners bear the burden of the losses incurred during war, so, sometimes, winning can be costly. In the case of making peace, however, everyone wins what was usually fought over in the beginning, which is world-wide peace, however local it may be, it is usually part of the intention of making up.

Now, today, when one thinks of peace, the great promoters of world peace tends to be repeated most often by beauty pageant contestants, as the tearful plea for the end to wars will tug on judges hearts enough to gain a point or two. If

only they would all say the same message in unison, then maybe the worlds heads will turn to at least listen to the future generation of beauty queens. Sometimes, beauty can move mountains.

Peace, in its own rights, is the result of non conflict, but nature does not agree with equality and in the wild world that encompasses most of the known planet, it is the laws of the lands and waters that dictate the outcomes of the usual constant struggle for survival. As with our faithful film makers, this mission is to showcase that somewhere in the world, differences can be settled and peaceful living side by side is the reward. War, in every sense, is costly, and generally makes no sense when the meaning for the conflicts disappear behind escalation and the need to win at all costs.

Once we warred, in the past. We fought sometimes for the wrong reasons, sometimes for a justification which was perhaps sensible for that time. But as we grow as people and communities and nations, we also mature with values and logic, with culture intact and lives to live for, a future without war. Nirvana? Maybe, but at least it's worth a try.

We, as peaceful people, have come together to show to the world that there is hope for peace after all. Wait for the next issue to hear the final outcome of what it takes to make a film based on war and focussed on peace. Live long and prosper...

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:

\$60 PLUS TAXES

US: \$90

ABROAD: \$110

PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON

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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005

ISSN #1206-2642

The Nation IS A MEMBER OF:

THE JAMES BAY CREE

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,

CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL

CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,

MAGAZINES CANADA

QUEBEC COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPERS ASSN.

LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of the

Government of Canada through the Canada

Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.



Barriere Lake project on ice

Mining exploration halted on Algonquin traditional territory

news

By Amy German

After all the struggles, disappointments and broken agreements, Barriere Lake can finally celebrate a victory. The Algonquin community, with the help of Mining Watch Canada, has managed to get a copper mining exploration project put on hold for at least two years.

The Rivière Doré copper mining project that Cartier Resources was set to carry out on the various claims that they had staked on Algonquin territory would have been executed without consultation or compensation for the people of Barriere Lake.

Activities on the land came to an abrupt halt in March when Cartier Resources finally complied with a request by the community to cease all activities and leave the exploration site.

In May, the community Elder's Council wrote the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and the CEO of Cartier Resources stating that the community would peacefully blockade any activities on their traditional territory. This would go on until such time as the historic 1991 Trilateral Agreement that the community signed with both Quebec and Canada is finally implemented.

The agreement details a co-management system with both Quebec and Canada and provides guidelines for resource revenue sharing resulting from development on Barriere Lake's territory.

Despite this, neither the province nor Ottawa ever respected the deal, leaving Barriere Lake as one Canada's poorest communities. It was also supposed to ensure the community was connected to the nearby Hydro Quebec grid, but the community remains, 20

community regarding the mining project, but that people are still very frustrated with the non-implementation of the agreement.

"It is our identity that is at stake here because we rely on the land for the survival of our language and the survival of

"IT IS OUR IDENTITY THAT IS AT STAKE HERE BECAUSE WE RELY ON THE LAND FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR LANGUAGE AND THE SURVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLE."

years later, without a reliable source of electricity.

"The community is very pleased that the company has, contrary to many other situations in Quebec, accepted the community's position and made a commitment to not pursue work on the site. The suspension will go until 2013 and during that time no work will be done on the site. The claims will be held in suspension which means that they will not be freed up for another company to stake them but – we are not clear as to what the company's next step might be," said Ramsay Hart of Mining Watch Canada.

Hart also noted that the community's council, imposed by Ottawa against the community's wishes a year ago, was of little help.

Community representative Michel Thusky said there is relief in the com-

our people. Our Elders have their knowledge and we want to make sure that this knowledge and our culture survives all of the impacts, in other words, we have to have a say on how the land has been managed. They have contributed to this idea of co-management with the territory," said Thusky.

With that in mind, Thusky is hoping newly elected MP Romeo Saganash will visit the community and take their cause to government.

"We have worked with Saganash's community, the Cree nation in the past and hopefully he will have a better understanding of our issues as at one point in the early 90s we worked with their Grand Chief, Matthew Coon Come in promoting the preservation of our identity," noted Thusky.

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THE BUILD-UP OF A SUCCESS STORY

NURSING PROGRAM: TIME FOR CLINICAL TRAINING!

THE 3RD YEAR NURSING STUDENTS :

This past May, they have just returned from a one month Clinical Training in Medical / Surgery at the Montreal General Hospital, the Jewish General Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital.

This Fall 2011 these students will be doing their 4th and last year, which will be spent mostly doing Clinical Training in Montreal. So in June 2012, they will be the first group of Nursing Students to be graduating from the College in Chibougamau !

THE 1ST YEAR NURSING STUDENTS :

This group, who began last October 2010, did a three day Clinical Training in Geriatrics at the Ste. Anne de Bellevue Veteran's Hospital.

The students were excited and looking forward to their first experience in a hospital setting.

WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY :

Lisa Bobbish (Chisasibi): It was a great experience which motivated me to continue my studies to be able to work in the future for the Cree Nation. It gave me a feeling of how it is to be in a Professional Career. It's great to be part of such an amazing Nursing Program.

Shawn Gilpin (Waskaganish): It was exciting and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am looking forward to next semester.



First year students 2010-2014. Front row from left to right: Nakoa Trapper, Shawn Gilpin and Kim Laprise, Second row from left to right: Shannon Chiskamish, Coleen Shaw, Sharon Blackned, Sandy Fitzpatrick, Alexandra Bouchard-Bédard, Lisa Bobbish, behind Lisa Jeraldene Coon, Jenellie Shecapio and Lee Ann Neeposh. Missing on the picture is: Mikai Flageole and another teacher Nancy St. Onge



The fourth year students 2008-2012. Sitting on the chair: Roxanne Pelchat, First row from left to right: Rose Ann Jolly, Annika Vachon, Theresa Bosum, Sophie Shecapio, Sandra Shecapio, Agnes Petawabano, Christina Matoush, Karen Shecapio-Blacksmith, Second row from left to right: Ghislain Ottereyes, Nancy Shecapio-Blacksmith, Leona Shem, Maggie Matoush, April Isheroff-Blacksmith, Sophia Cheezo, Absent: Sonia Bosum

Lee Ann Neeposh (Nemaska): It was a great experience. I'll never forget my first patient who was 85 years old. I look forward to more great and exciting experiences. I can't wait to work.

The staff at the Ste. Anne de Bellevue Hospital were happy to receive the students and have the opportunity to discover the Cree Culture through these students. They are looking forward to receiving the fourth year students next Fall.

A end of the year supper was held at the Milsa restaurant in Montreal in honour of the students and guests from the Cree Health Board and Cree School Board. A surprise guest of honour Nancy Danyluk, who is well know throughout the Communities as one of the first Cree Nurses, addressed the students sharing with them her experience, the challenges she had to overcome in order to become a Nurse and giving encouragement to the students to pursue their studies.

Thank you to our partners Cree Human Resources Development, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and Cree School Board who have made the Nursing Program possible.

**Maybe you can be part of
the next Nursing Program training !**

The road to economic development

Stornoway Diamonds pledges cash for Highway 167 extension

news

By Amy German

The momentum for Quebec Premier Jean Charest's cherished Plan Nord received a big boost Aug. 1 with the announcement that Stornoway Diamonds will contribute \$44 million to help extend Route 167, which will eventually lead to the company's planned diamond mine in the Otish Mountains.

Stornoway President and CEO Matt Manson joined Charest and Grand Council representative Abel Bosum in Chibougamau for the announcement. Also present at the press conference were Pierre Corbeil, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Transport Minister Norman MacMillan.

Manson announced that Stornoway will also contribute to long-term road maintenance.

"As a potential industrial user of the road, we are stepping up and offering to put some money into its development," said Manson. The company has agreed to contribute up to \$5,000 per kilometre, or \$1.215 million a year, to road maintenance during the duration of the mining operation.

The new portion of the 167 will be a multi-service provincial highway that will connect Stornoway's projected Renard project at Lac Albanel (Temiscamie) to Mistissini and Chibougamau. This Route will also serve as a gateway to a series of other potential mining projects that were outlined in the Plan Nord as well as the Albanel-Temiscamie-Otish Park, which is still pending government approval.

"The road will take between three and five years to build and be finalized, but within 18 months they are telling us that it will be available to navigate as the construction is going on. It will be a bit of a rough journey but we can mobilize our

construction trucks for the mine by the middle of 2013," said Manson.

He went on to say that subject to receiving the proper permitting, construction for the mine is due to begin by mid 2013. The mine would then be operating during the first half of 2015 if everything goes to plan.

Stornoway began exploration on the Foxtrot property around the Otish Mountains, near Mistissini, back in 1998 but it was only in 2001 that the company, in a joint venture with Crown Corporation Soquen,

167 as a way to facilitate economic development in Eeyou Istchee.

"At the same time, it was necessary to mention certain Cree priorities and one of them of course is that the road is located on the traditional territory of the Cree Nation of Mistissini and so this project directly affects Cree rights and interests under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement," said Bosum.

Bosum went on to say that the Crees must share in the benefits associated with the road extension



discovered what was to become the Renard Project.

Not only will the Renard project be Quebec's first diamond mine but the quality of diamonds discovered within the Otish Mountains have been assessed at being above the average market quality.

Stornoway Vice-President Ghislain Poirier has previously told the Nation that the quality of Stornoway's diamonds will fetch an average price of \$117 per carat, compared to the world average of about \$80-\$90/ carat.

Filling in for Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, Bosum said the Cree support the extension of

project and that means that they must share in the jobs and the contracts created by this development.

However, Bosum said the Crees' desire for environmental protection is a major aspect for both the mine and the road construction, with a particular interest in protecting the endangered woodland caribou in this area.

Bosum closed by announcing that a new office for the Commission de la construction du Québec will be opening up in the region to accommodate all of the new and ongoing projects that are part of the Plan Nord.

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Goldcorp dubs mine-shaft after explorer

Goldcorp will be name a mineshaft at its Éléonore project near Wemindji after the acclaimed exploration geologist and mining industry icon responsible for the Éléonore discovery, André Gaumond.

"We are naming this Andre Gaumond because Andre had been instrumental in the discovery of the Éléonore project. We see this as the opening of a new gold district mining camp much like Rouyn Noranda, Timmins or Val d'Or and it was Gaumond that led us to can really be considered a world class discovery," said Goldcorp's Guy Belleau.

Gaumond is the President and CEO of Virginia Gold Mines Inc. In 2004, he was awarded the title of Quebec Prospector of the Year in recognition of the Coulon and

Éléonore projects. Gaumond was also named Quebec Entrepreneur of the Year in 2005 for the Éléonore.

Goldcorp will be developing two mining shafts on the Éléonore. The second shaft will be named with an as-yet unidentified Cree theme that would be reflective of the historic development the company has struck with community of Wemindji.

Algonquin Elder Commanda passes away

First Nations peoples across the country are mourning the passing on August 3 of famed leader, teacher and activist, "Grandfather" William Commanda. He was 97.

Born in 1913, Commanda led an inspirational life that touched many, having travelled round the globe to deliver his message of peace and respect for Mother Earth.

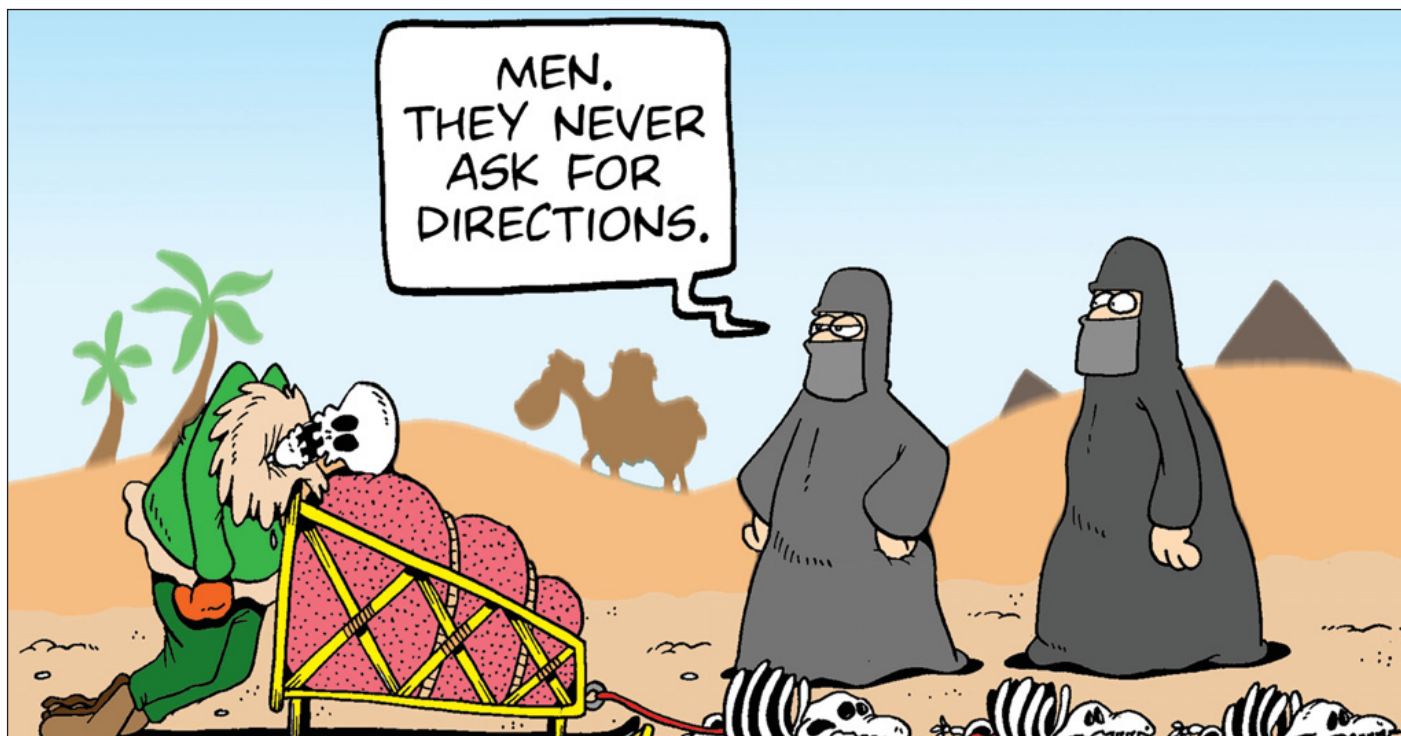
Commanda served as Chief of Kitigan Kibi from 1951 to 1970. But he gained renown in the years that followed his political service. Noted for his participation in events at the United Nations with Nelson Mandela and the

Dalai Lama, Commanda also organized Elders without Borders, a national and international gathering of Elders. An advocate for the rights and the advancement of Aboriginal peoples, Commanda was also known as a guardian of knowledge of Native tradi-



tions, especially as regards wampum belts, of which he was the guardian of three very sacred ones.

"He was a truly unique and exceptional man who dedicated his life to building bridges between people of all nations and all generations," said Assembly of First Nations National Grand Chief Shawn Atleo. "His wisdom, his dedication to his people and his example were an inspiration to leaders not only of my generation but also across many generations of First Nations. We mourn his passing and we know we will not see his like again."



Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

Better living through hockey

Annual summer camp promotes wellness on and off the ice

by Daniel Coyle



It may have been mid-July, but more than 120 young hockey players who gathered in Waskaganish for the fifth annual True North Wellness Hockey Camp only wanted to get on the ice. Jointly sponsored by Ottawa-based TMSI Sports Management and Ollson Sports Group, the True North Wellness Hockey Camp provides Cree youth aged 5 to 20 with an intensive training camp run by elite on-ice and off-ice instructors from a variety of sports backgrounds, including NHL prospects and scouts from the Boston Bruins and the Phoenix Coyotes.

The camp is the brainchild of Waskaganish Youth and Recreation Director Charles J. Hester and Gordon Hudson, a former CFL player and the current Regional Director of Youth Healing at the Cree Health Board.

According to Hester, the camp's objective goes beyond teaching hockey skills to kids. The program's holistic approach is designed to cover all aspects of well being for the young participants.

"We want to use hockey to pass on the message of wellness, eating right, staying away from drugs and alcohol and exercising," said Hester. "We use hockey to draw the kids and the parents in. At the same time, we try to pass along the message to live a healthy lifestyle. That is how the camp got started."

One of this year's biggest attractions was the participation by members of the Boston Bruins and Phoenix Coyotes organizations. Keith Gretzky, the Coyotes' Director of Amateur Scouting, and Wayne Smith, the Bruins' Director of Amateur Scouting, were this year's highest profile instructors. A number of Boston Bruins prospects, including Ryan Spooner and Adam Courchaine, helped out on the ice.

While the NHLers left many young participants star struck, hockey veteran John Ollson of the Ollson Sports Group, brought them back to earth with rigorous on-ice drills. A former Chicago Blackhawks prospect, Ollson played pro hockey in the AHL, IHL and in Europe and was part of Team Canada's develop-



mental program. Upon retiring from hockey, he developed training programs with former NHLers Steve Yzerman and Darren Pang. In the 19 years since, Ollson Sports Group has provided hockey training to almost 90,000 young players.

"I am glad that we come up here," said Ollson. "I'd say hockey is more popular (in Waskaganish) than almost anywhere. They've got it painted on their houses and garbage cans, on their cars. I think that we should pay more attention to hockey among First Nations. When we do these hockey camps, we know who the competitive kids are, just like at home in Ottawa. And the competitive kids are just as good as the kids at home."

Dry land training is a key element of the True North Wellness Hockey Camp. Over the course of two weeks every attendee spends time in the gym and the classroom with former Montreal Alouette player and WWF professional wrestler Glenn Kulka.

"My goal is to make them better athletes, period," says Kulka, who now operates a personal training studio for elite athletes in the Ottawa area.

"I do three sessions in the morning with younger children and intense afternoon sessions with older athletes," explains Kulka. "I teach them how to train properly. How to do a proper bench, proper squat, proper dead lift and a proper power clean," referring to the weight-lifting techniques he has mastered throughout his athletic career.

But Kulka's sessions with the kids go well beyond weight training. As a former pro football player, hockey player, wrestler and mixed martial artist, Kulka is no stranger to the dangers that drugs, particularly anabolic steroids, pose to young athletes.

"I have never hidden any of the (drug) use I have been through," he explains. "The ramifications; the fact that I won't live as long as the average person because of my abuse of anabolic steroids throughout my CFL career and into my wrestling career. These types of things I let these kids know."

During a half-day educational session, Kulka does not pull any punches when



"WE WANT TO USE HOCKEY TO PASS ON THE MESSAGE OF WELLNESS, EATING RIGHT, STAYING AWAY FROM DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AND EXERCISING."



educating teenaged players about the risks of substance abuse of all kinds; risks both to themselves and to their family and community.

"Sometimes, kids just need to be scared. Whether you are going to the CIS football league or hockey league or junior hockey or the NHL, they have drug testing now. I talk about embarrassing your family and yourself. The humiliation you'd go through if you tested positive and got suspended."

Charles Hester puts special value on this real-life education. "We want to bring in people who can serve as role models for our youth," said Hester. "I

think it has given more credibility to our camp."

In its short history, the True North Wellness Hockey Camp has helped hundreds of young people become better hockey players, with some even going on to play at a high level in AAA Midget and the QMJHL. But for Charles Hester, the true value of this hockey camp is its long-term impact on the community. When these young people reach adulthood and return to their communities after their playing days are over they will pass on what they have learned.

"We are trying to build human beings," says Hester. "That is our number-one goal."



Bruins get the deal done in the Skag

by Daniel Coyle



The business of the NHL never stops, even in Waskaganish. While in town as a guest instructor for the True North Wellness Hockey Camp, Boston Bruins prospect Ryan Spooner signed his first professional contract with the NHL's Stanley Cup champions.

Drafted in the 2nd round of the 2010 NHL Entry Draft and 45th overall, Spooner was one of the final cuts at last season's Bruins training camp. He started the 2010-2011 season with the Peterborough Petes of the Ontario Hockey League before being traded to Kingston, where Frontenacs coach and NHL Hall of Famer Doug Gilmour helped him develop. Spooner finished the season with a brief stint with the AHL Providence Bruins, Boston's top farm club.

"This is the first time that an NHL contract has been signed on Quebec Cree territory," said Waskaganish Youth and Recreation Services Director Charles J. Hester. "We look forward to the day when an NHL contract is signed here by a young

Cree hockey player; perhaps one of the players taking part in this week's hockey camp."

Spooner earned the contract after scoring 35 goals and 46 assists in 64 games during the 2010-11 season. Spooner also reportedly showed great progress at the Bruins' recent development camp.

"We waited till now. We wanted to see a full year of development up until and including the development camp and we saw improvement and we saw that willingness to get better and that's why we decided to sign [Spooner] now," said Boston Bruins General Manager Peter Chiarelli. "It's easier to sign these guys right away and get the signings out of the way but we wanted them to work for it."

Spooner is eligible to earn a spot with the Boston Bruins this coming season. But given the forward depth on the Bruins' Stanley Cup winning squad, it is more likely that he will play one more season of junior hockey in Kingston.

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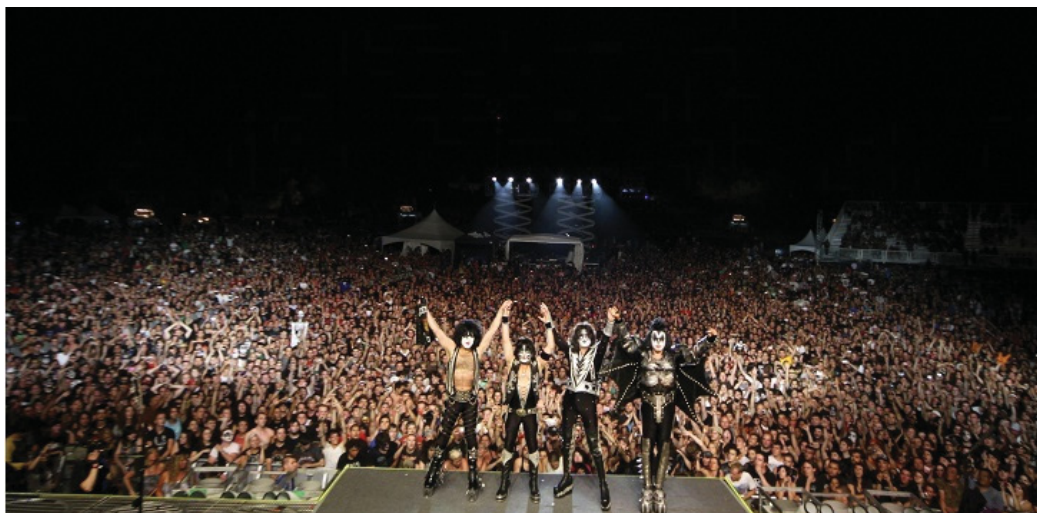
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Redemption and rediscovery at Heavy MTL

By Will Nicholls and Lyle Stewart

Excuse the phrasing, but it is a punk's game to try to sharply limit music genres these days, especially the many offshoots and sub-categories that shelter under the "heavy metal" umbrella. And that may be the main great thing, among many great things, about the Heavy MTL festival that bludgeoned the city's Parc des Îles with its third edition July 23-24.

The name of the festival, like the music, is open to interpretation: is it heavy metal, or heavy Montreal, or both? (Answer: C)

And that's what makes it great. Some bands to play this year, such as punkers Billy Talent (whose lead singer acknowledged the awkward fit), Grimskunk, and even the headliners, KISS, are not generally thought of these days as metal acts. But that's okay. They're heavy, they played to receptive audiences numbering 35,000 over two days – and the festival's setting, its sound and the weekend sun were all sensational.

As KISS's Paul Stanley humorously growled upon taking the stage on during the beautiful twilight of a Sunday evening beside the St-Lawrence River with downtown Montreal as a backdrop, "We don't play death metal."

Another thing: the most well known and popular of these groups are getting a little long in the tooth, and I'm not talking about their fangs. Anthrax has been around since the metal "new wave" of the early 1980s, Motörhead started in 1975 just in time to drive punk

in a harder direction, and headliners KISS, well, they're approaching their 40th anniversary.

That means Motörhead's Lemmy Kilmeister, at 65 years old, is a bonafide senior citizen, while KISS stalwart Gene Simmons turns 61 later this month. When I was a teenager, I wouldn't be caught dead paying good money to see geezers that old on a stage. But today? Who cares as long as they can play?

What's more, the audience reflected that reality. At one point during the KISS set, Paul Stanley asked the parents in the audience to hoist their little ones, and the stage screens picked out infant after infant in KISS makeup – some of these

kids were probably being held by their grandparents.

– Lyle Stewart

KISS

Let's be clear. The stage act rocks and is a visual delight. But as far as the music goes, there are two versions of KISS: The songs of the original heyday of 1973-1977, and... everything that came after. I admit, the very first record I bought, at the age of 12, was Love Gun, and so my bias is clear.

Not that the early catalogue is all that great (aside from a few gems such as "Detroit Rock City" and "Rock and Roll All Nite"). But you could tell by the crowd boredom with the schlock rock of the 80s and later that people came to



hear the great originals. And they delivered with Firehouse, Deuce, God of Thunder, Black Diamond, and Love Gun – to name but a few that served as a warm up for the two great tracks already mentioned.

It was enough to gloss over the repeated weakness of Paul Stanley's singing voice, who croaked and choked his way through several songs with Simmons and lead guitarist Tommy Thayer at times taking over midway through to give Stanley's vocal cords a rest.

My other beef is that you really can recognize faces beneath the makeup. While Thayer is a proficient guitarist and Eric Singer can pound the drums, they aren't Ace Frehley and Peter Criss. It may be kind of silly to expect authenticity from KISS, but it's still weird and off-putting to see half of the original line-up represented by obvious imposters. Sorry, but it just ain't right.

People came to see a spectacle, however. And in this, we weren't disappointed. Lights, pyro, video, confetti and a full-blown fireworks display to end off a deeply satisfying evening. An evening that also just happened to be my birthday; this concert being a b-day present from the guy who edits this magazine. (Thanks Will!)

– Lyle Stewart

Motörhead

A teenager might (and probably should) grow out of KISS, but Motörhead? They're forever. I had the Ace of Spades album in my vinyl collection 31 years ago and seeing them at Heavy MTL as heavy, as tight and as raw as this trio was then only reaffirmed my faith.

I don't pretend to be able to understand most of the lyrics that Lemmy gurgles into the mic, but I do understand the way he plays (i.e., strums and pounds, not plucks) his bass as a rhythm guitar. I understand it deep in my belly... and a little lower.

And that's the intent. This is primal music, but expertly executed.

"Ace of Spades", still their biggest hit, was great, but there is a reason they ended the show with the track "Overkill," which predates the Ace. Sorry to say, but KISS will never play a

song as powerful and as tight and as hypnotic as this one that these three aging gentlemen stretched longer and longer and longer almost to the breaking point. Don't go to YouTube to hear it if you're not already familiar with it; go to a Motörhead concert and hear – and feel – it live. And bring earplugs.

– Lyle Stewart

Anthrax

The memories of my youth stared me in the face and growled with gusto when Anthrax emerged onto the Heavy MTL main stage. They dragged the naked soul of thrash metal behind them and laid it at our feet. The beat ripped into our hearts and made us part of the music. One song stood out for me, and that was "Indians." Something that is close to Joey

Belladonna as along with Italian he has Native American ancestry from Canada. Indians sings about stolen land, pride and tradition, being second-class citizens but delivers the message that we all need to change to leave hate and prejudice behind. It's a song every First Nations person can relate to. Belladonna may have had a few wrinkles but you wouldn't have known that seeing him and the rest of the band bouncing around the stage. Never a teaser, Anthrax was always a crowd pleaser.

– Will Nicholls

Grimskunk

I have heard this band more than a few times but they really grabbed my attention at Heavy MTL. I took a few photos and then settled back to enjoy their show.



Agreement for the Elders in the Cree Communities

Submission of projects

A *Specific Agreement on "Adapting Regional Services and Infrastructures in Order to Improve Living Conditions of Seniors"* in the Cree Regional Authority, Nord-du-Québec region 2008-2013" was concluded between the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) and the Québec Government in 2008.

The Agreement envisages a financial aid for eligible organizations who wish to develop and set up activities, projects, infrastructures and innovative services in bond with the general objectives of the Agreement.

The general objectives of the Agreement are to:

- enable government, municipal (Band Councils and MRC), regional, university, association and community partners to identify common objectives and projects aimed at improving the contribution of the elderly in their communities;
- contribute to the creation and implementation of projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the elderly;
- foster the social participation of the elderly in local and regional community development;
- promote the benefit and social inclusion of elders by providing a voice for the Elders in Eeyou Ischtee;

The specific objectives of the Agreement are to:

- provide vision, leadership and guidance to the Cree elders;
- provide advice and information on Cree traditional knowledge, cultural and values;
- assist to educate the youth about Cree language, culture and traditions;
- hold Annual meetings to address their needs and concerns expressed by the Elders to the Cree leadership;
- strengthen unity among Cree elders of Eeyou Ischtee;
- foster issues concerning the quality of life, health, social and cultural of the Cree elders;
- realise the role of elders as a creative and active resource for the Cree communities;

Application can be submitted at anytime.

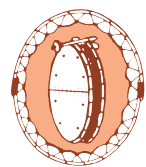
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Imagine my surprise when Grimskunk's Joe Evil suddenly dedicated a song to a "real f'ing asshole: Steven Harper." I was intrigued, as aside from Anthrax (who played later), not many heavy metal bands have an overtly political message in their songs. Evil explained that Grimskunk was a crossover heavy metal band with punk roots.

"We're more political than your average heavy metal band," Evil told during a backstage interview. He also said the band even goes outside the metal and punk genre, including playing ska and reggae licks from time to time.

"But we're from the hardcore school that includes the Sex Pistols and the Dead Kennedys," he said. "As a result we have a long tradition of anti-government and political lyrics."

Evil said the original version of the song dealt with American politics, but that has changed. That's why Grimskunk says Harper sucks as he is a throwback to the Bush era. "He [Harper] looked up to Bush and I have to say I'm a little disappointed in the way Canadians voted, but that's democracy. Hopefully Harper won't destroy what this country has done in the past 75 years for women's rights, gay rights and other social issues," said Evil.

I listened to them, loved them and hope to see them again. They made my day.

– Will Nicholls



All Shall Perish

If I ever have the faintest desire to conduct Satanic rituals I will invite this group to supply the background music. If by chance the minions of hell don't answer my, um, prayers, I'll still feel that the atmosphere was ideal.

– Will Nicholls

Billy Talent

A band that succeeded in winning over an audience. The music was great and couldn't be touched by the current Metal Madness that is mediocre at best

these days. Lead singer Benjamin Kowalewicz had the energy and chops to hold the crowd in the palm of his hand for most of their performance. His continuous demands for the firehose (to either cool the crowd off or to have a truly satisfying pseudo-sexual experience) went largely unheard but no one cared enough to storm the stage and assist him.

I will say Billy Talent was a great experience and one I didn't expect. Some friends had put them down but I found no substance for those remarks.





Never having known Billy Talent before Heavy MTL was both good and bad. Good because I have a new band to get to know and bad because it took me so long to find them. If nothing else, it was an opportunity to discover and enjoy a band is a reason to attend a Heavy MTL weekend.

– Will Nicholls

Godsmack

This Boston-spawned band is infused with the same spirit that prompted their ancestors to toss tea into the city's famous harbour. Saying they reminded me of past metal greats would be wrong. Godsmack has a sound style uniquely their own and one they have earned through hard work, perseverance and raw talent. They have opened for both Black Sabbath and Metallica in the past. Definitely a band to have a good time with anytime you need a reason to lose your mind to a Heavy MTL beat.

– Will Nicholls

Suicide Silence

Once again the SS proved they were death metal to the max. They pleased the purists in the crowd with their energy and the same fanatic determination that could have inspired the Sioux warriors who attacked the 7th Calvary at Little Big Horn. This mayhem-minded music blew us away. This band woke me up and left me wanting more.

– Will Nicholls

Machine Head

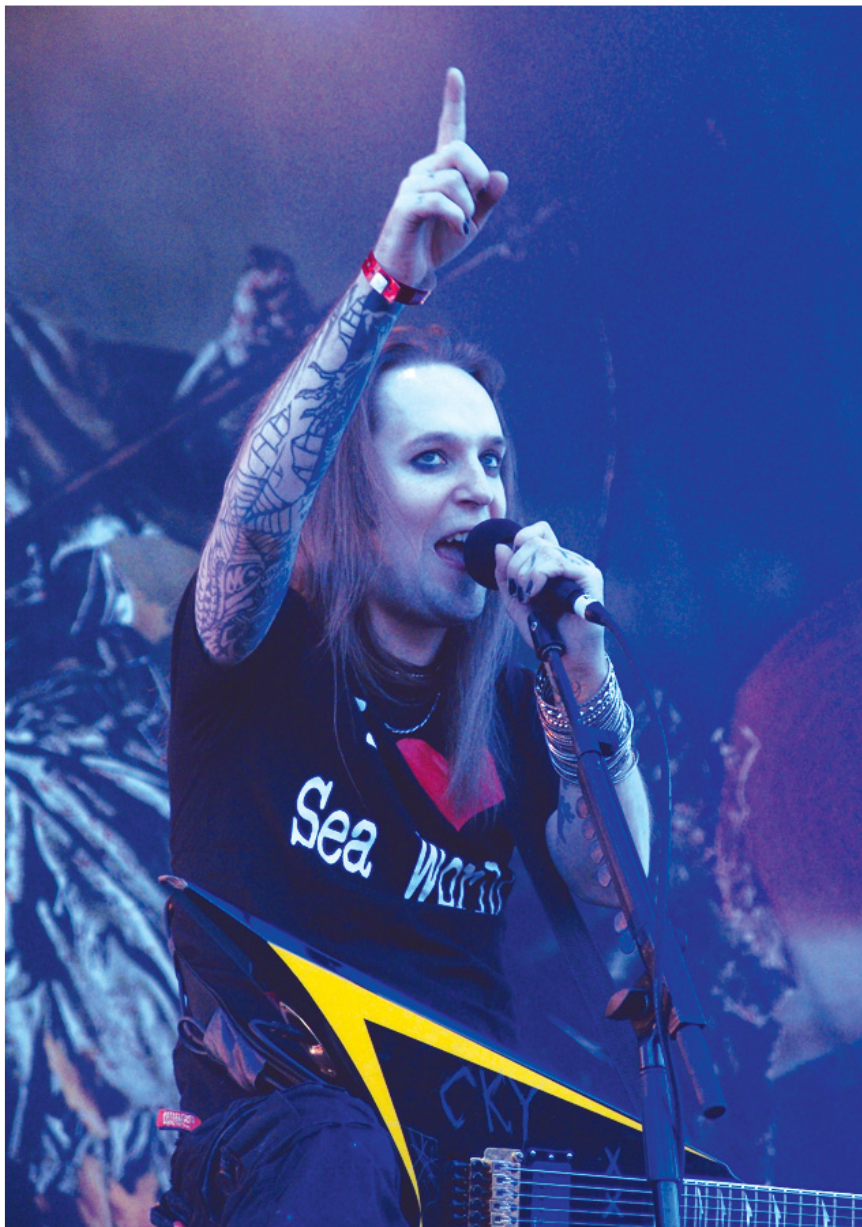
An awesome band that's considered one of the pioneers of the "new wave of American Heavy Metal." The movement seems to encompass many styles but is gaining adherents for what many see as a return to heavy metal's roots. They rocked the crowd and my personal favourite was their track, "The Blood, The Sweat, The Tears."

– Will Nicholls

DevilDriver

This band believes in working hard, rocking harder and kicking as many butts as possible in the process. Their music is evolving, as they don't follow a corporate model of building on past successes. DevilDriver has worked to make a sound they can call their own and it works. Fans are crazy loyal and love being a part of the journey DevilDriver has embarked upon. This band and their music are never boring and they deliver old favourites as well as something that's always new.

– Will Nicholls



Road warriors

The Nation checks in with the cross-Canada Walkers 4 Justice

By Amy German

Some folks never give up. People like Gladys Radek and Bernie Williams, who are both missing female family members that the rest of society appears to have forgotten.

That's why, since 2008, Radek and Williams have organized annual provincial or national walks to raise awareness for Canada's murdered or missing women.



Reached in Saskatchewan after departing from Vancouver June 21, the two First Nations women from British Columbia say they're determined to keep trekking on to spread their message.

According to Radek, this year's walkers are a dedicated group of 14, all family members who have had a loved one go missing, never to be seen alive again or have fallen prey to murder.

The 2011 edition of their journey will take the entire summer, running from June to late September, on a walk from Vancouver to Ottawa.

Both Radek and Williams know first hand what these families have experienced. Radek's niece Tamara Lynn Chipman disappeared off Highway 16 ("the Highway of Tears") near Prince Rupert, BC, in 2005. William's mother and two sisters were all murdered under different circumstances in Vancouver's Downtown East Side (DTES). Williams has also been a frontline worker in the DTES for 25 years. It was during this time that she

met Radek, who was then looking for her niece.

"This year there are only five original walkers that are with us from the first walk. We now also have new family members on board. We have two family members of the latest murder victim in BC, Taisha Jones, walking with us. Everyone on this trip is a family member," said Radek.

"AS YOU KNOW WE STARTED OUT WITH JUST TWO GRASSROOTS PEOPLE IN THIS GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT BUT NOW I THINK THAT THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE COMING FORWARD (ABOUT THEIR MISSING/MURDERED LOVED ONES) AND WHO HAVE BECOME AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THIS COUNTRY."

Radek and the other 13 walkers had just completed a Hugging Ceremony at the Saskatchewan Fish Lake First Nation Cultural Gathering. The group had been invited to the youth gathering to make a presentation on Walk 4 Justice, a core part of the walk's awareness raising activities.

"We are raising awareness as usual and we are pushing for a National Missing and Murdered women's public inquiry. We are also pushing for a national missing and murdered women's symposium," said Radek.

The group would also like to see something made available to those whose loved ones go missing as their pain and suffering is without end. But Radek said the federal government systematically ignores their demands.

"As you know we started out with just two grassroots people in this grassroots movement but now I think that there are more people coming forward (about their missing/murdered loved ones) and who have become aware of what is going on in this country," said Radek.

Many family members have come forward in recent years through groups like Walk 4 Justice and the now defunct Native Women's Association of Canada's Sisters in Spirit Initiative. The outreach enabled them to gain strength, support and knowledge from other mourners, helping them know they are not alone in their grief.

"We want people to know that violence against women is no longer acceptable. We want to ensure that if someone goes missing in these communities, that everybody help to find them because when a woman goes missing in one family, it doesn't just affect the family, it affects the whole community," said Radek.

For Radek, who is also handicapped, the journey is a labour of love.

"I have an artificial leg but the pains that I may get when I do walk are nothing compared to the suffering in the hearts of those family members who have lost their loved ones and so a little bit of pain isn't going to kill me, that's for sure," said Radek.

Walk 4 Justice is a non-profit group that accepts donations via the Union of BC Indian Chiefs at 500 - 342 Water Street, Vancouver, BC, re: Walk4Justice; or deposits can be made to Scotia Bank account number 00271-11, transit number 10140; or call 778-235-5251. Website: fnbc.info/walk4justice



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Youth cinema fades to black Federal funding cuts immobilize Wapikoni Mobile

By Amy German

Despite an eight-year production record that has yielded more than 450 completed film projects, the federal government has pulled the lifeline from Wapikoni Mobile, Quebec's successful and celebrated First Nations youth cinema program.

Just as Wapikoni Mobile's three trailer units were set to hit the road in mid-July, Human Resources and Skills Development Minister Diane Finley announced she was pulling the organization's \$490,000 federal grant.

Without the funding, a series of Quebec First Nation's communities will be left without Wapikoni's summer youth employment programs – including film production training by professional First Nations instructors using state-of-the-art equipment and editing facilities provided by the travelling studios.

This unique, cutting-edge program has given a seldom-heard voice to First Nations youth over the past eight years. More than 2000 young film hopefuls have participated in the program since it was founded in 2002. Dozens of their films have been screened at film festivals across the globe, bringing home a haul of 44 international awards.

"I think it is a real tragedy because this project has evolved as a really important service for the youth of remote communities where in many cases they have absolutely nothing for those young people," said Andre Dudemaine, founding member of the Land InSights First Nations festival.

"This was a very positive project that offered training in production and direction of short films as a means of developing artistic and social capacities," Dudemaine added.

He doesn't understand why the government would cancel a skills-development program that provided so much job training, especially given the opportunities provided by the thriving



Aboriginal broadcast media sector led by networks such as APTN.

Minister Finley's justification for cancelling the project was that the \$490,000 could be better spent developing other skills, though she didn't specify.

The rationale doesn't fly with Abitibi-James Bay-Nunavik-Eeyou MP Romeo Saganash. "I just don't understand how a decision like this comes about as it was a very successful program," he said.

"I THINK IT IS A REAL TRAGEDY BECAUSE THIS PROJECT HAS EVOLVED AS A REALLY IMPORTANT SERVICE FOR THE YOUTH OF REMOTE COMMUNITIES WHERE IN MANY CASES THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING FOR THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE."

"Everyone can surely appreciate that this was an important program for the youth."

Aboriginal youth have few opportunities in their home communities, Saganash added. "They need something like this program to give them hope for the future and it really worked for them. This was something that gave them so much pride and hope and so why do this now?"

Saganash said he was fearful that other major cultural events in the north

would also see cuts. Many people have appealed to Minister Finley to reverse the decision, to no avail.

Wapikoni Executive Director Manon Barbeau has acknowledged that it would take "nothing short of a miracle" to get her operation back on the road.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come sent an open letter to Finley testifying to the positive impact the project had on

the communities of Ouje-Bougoumou and Mistissini.

"This kind of interventions can work solely if it is continuous and carried out over a long-term period, as we all know. At a time when the positive impact of the Wapikoni Mobile has been recognized and when participants' success stories multiply, it is crucial that this organization continues its activities," wrote Coon Come.



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Travel Guides at the Canadian Guild of Crafts

By Christine Rigby

The 21st First Peoples Festival officially began August 2 in Montreal, but the festivities got underway a bit early this year with a vernissage at the Canadian Guild of Crafts on July 21.

The Guild, founded in 1906, is known for its efforts to conserve and promote Inuit and First Nations art in addition to fine Canadian crafts. This exhibit, which presents digital photomontage, is a departure from what most expect at the guild. But the images do not feel out of place among the more traditional crafts on display.

The two aboriginal artists behind the exhibit, Chris Bose and Martin Loft, take the viewer on a journey through the past and explore ideas of tradition in much the same way as more traditional crafts. By integrating photography and digital media the two artists have successfully connected tradition and storytelling by using contemporary media. The result of which is a mosaic of images that are not only nice to look at, but are thought provoking as well.

Martin Loft, a Kahnawake Mohawk, is a newcomer to this form of art and says he had been on hiatus from photography for almost 20 years. Having spent the better part of that time working in his community to preserve Mohawk language and culture, the artist and community worker did not expect to get back into the arts, let alone digital media.

Loft says that it was by chance that an old friend discovered across his photographs a few years back and recommended he attend courses at a digital media centre on the south shore.

They helped Loft gain new appreciation for what he calls "the limitless possibilities that could be achieved by using this form of mixed media." A huge fan of poster art and graphic design from the 60s and 70s, Loft began exploring these influ-

ences and techniques with fervour, the results of which can be seen in his pieces at the exhibition.

Loft's digital photomontages, while aesthetically pleasing, also create a sense of connection between First Nations history and culture, with respect to its relevance in modern society. By juxtaposing old images and new artistic tools he is able to tell a story about the lives of Aboriginal people from Canada and the rest of the world.

The integration of images from other indigenous cultures was important for Loft because "most First Peoples Nations face the same struggles for the same rights," he said.

While he may appear to have a political or social message to pass on with his work, Loft describes his work as aesthetic rather than political. Despite this, his many years of working to preserve Mohawk culture and tradition inevitably, in unintentionally, shine through in his work.

While Martin Loft may be a newcomer to the digital arts field, Chris Bose, N'laka'pamux from the Secwepemc Nation, is definitely no stranger to the digital medium. Bose, the second of the two contributors at the Travel Guides exhibit, is known primarily as a social and political filmmaker. He is also an artist who practices a variety of artistic techniques, also experimenting with music, and visual art.

The works Bose has on display at the Guild focus on what he calls "digital storytelling" and showcase his dedication to First Peoples culture and tradition through mixed media prints. Bright, busy, and high contrast, his images more obviously symbolize tradition, culture, politics, and the conflicts or hypocrisies therein. Bose's pieces are not quiet; they are loud and insist that we



think about the stories they are trying to tell.

Although both artists showing in the Travel Guides exhibit at the Guild share the same media form and a similar aesthetic, they take a very different approach to how they create their own digital stories. While one employs a softer, quieter, more subdued method to his digital storytelling, the other is louder and definite.

Each of the artists could stand alone, but the combination of the two is truly what makes this show so interesting. It is a successful juxtaposition and really must be seen in person to be appreciated.

The exposition, appropriately titled "Travel Guides" and featuring works by Chris Bose and Martin Loft, runs until August 9 at the Canadian Guild of Crafts.

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Wabun Youth Gathering's traditional teachings

by Xavier Kataquapit

The fifth annual Wabun Youth Gathering at the Eco Centre Lodge in Elk Lake, Ontario, featured presentations by Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy and Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose. Eighty-five Wabun youth attended the event, which ran from July 18 to 29 and was sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council Health Services.

"I am here today to show my support for the Wabun youth and to encourage them in their participation of workshops where they are learning traditional and cultural teachings of our people. I have also brought along some of our college and university summer students that are working for NAN so that they can step forward as role models for our young people," said Grand Chief Beardy.

He was accompanied by NAN Deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose, Ben Cheechoo, NAN Governance Secretariat Director and former Grand Chief of NAN; Dr Emily Faries, Education Jurisdiction Negotiator, NAN Governance Secretariat and five post secondary students from the NAN area.

"My message to you today is to keep working hard and striving and to remind you that our strength as a people comes from our language, culture and traditions. You are our future and with so many opportunities available today, you have to make sure you have an education," said Deputy Grand Chief Waboose.

Dr. Faries and Cheechoo conducted a presentation on NAN First Nation Governance, an initiative involving the sectoral negotiation process to achieve self-governance agreements in areas that affect the lives of the members of the First Nations of NAN.

"It is important for us to communicate to our youth what is involved in this process and to receive input from these young people," said Dr. Faries.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week, from July 18 to 22,

was held for junior youth aged from eight to 12. The second week, from July 25 to 29, was for senior youth aged 13 to 18. In the first week, facilitator Barney McLeod, a popular international Aboriginal soap stone sculptor and Matachewan FN member, conducted workshops that led to the junior youth producing their own soap stone carvings. He was assisted by his partner Karen Clark.

The senior week featured Byron Edgar, an Aboriginal facilitator from Manitoulin Island who is involved in youth leadership training and prevention of suicide, gangs, violence, bullying and substance abuse. Another facilitator, Percy Trapper, an Aboriginal musician, originally from Moosonee, on the James Bay coast, conducted a presentation on life skills using his own success story.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn about our traditional teachings and culture. I want to thank our Wabun Chiefs for giving us the opportunity to have this gathering every year," said senior youth, Lynne Cormier, Matachewan FN.

Matachewan Elder Vina Hendrix led the group in opening and closing prayers and she was instrumental in assisting everyone with traditional and cultural knowledge. Beaverhouse First Nation Chief Marcia Martel-Brown took part as a chaperone for youth and performed a traditional drum ceremony assisted by Beaverhouse senior youth Michael Lafrenier.

"I am so proud and grateful to be part of the Wabun Youth Gathering. Over the years, I am amazed at all of the growth I have seen in our young people who have participated in these events. I am also thankful to our Wabun Chiefs for making the event possible and to Health Canada for funding we have received over the years," said Mike Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services.



Internationally recognized soapstone sculptor Barney McLeod conducted workshops for youth. From L-R are sculptor McLeod and junior youth J.C. Jolivet of Brunswick House First Nation.



Survival skills and traditional teachings were passed on to participants at the Wabun Youth Gathering July 18 - 29. Here we see a canoe rescue with (from L-R) Aboriginal facilitator Byron Edgar, Faith Jolivet, Brittany Begin and Melissa Black, all of Brunswick House First Nation.



Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy makes a presentation to Brandon Batisse of Matachewan First Nation.

Uranium mine is one big step closer to reality

Federal Review Panel approves license despite serious reservations

By Amy German

Ottawa looks set to give the green light to the Matoush uranium mine in the Otish Mountains.

The Federal Review Panel examining Strateco Resources' bid to build a uranium exploration ramp in the region north of Lake Mistissini has recommended the project be approved for licensing.

The company, the community of Mistissini, the city of Chibougamau and a laundry list of environmental groups and other interested stakeholders have all been waiting since November for the decision. That's when they had their last opportunity to make presentations to the review panel.

At that time, the Cree Nation of Mistissini expressed strong opposition to the proposal on grounds that it fundamentally violated Cree values. The band council added that Strateco did not provide sufficient data to allow a full evaluation of the project's environmental impact. The Grand Council of the Crees then called for a moratorium on uranium mining throughout Eeyou Istchee.

Under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the project's Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is subject to review by both a federal and then a provincial panel as well as Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The findings of the two latter reports have yet to be released.

The Federal Review Panel report, released July 26, concluded that the project is unlikely to cause significant environmental effects.

Despite the panel's dissatisfaction with the company's response to additional information requests, for instance on the effect of mining effluent on water quality, it nonetheless said it could proceed. The panel also noted Cree opposition but simply recommended that Strateco "build a relationship based on trust with the members of the Mistissini community."

For Mining Watch spokesperson Ramsay Hart, how the Federal Review Panel arrived at a positive decision despite serious flaws in the project is a mystery.

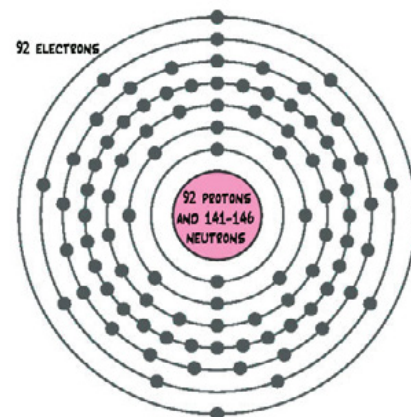
"This ruling points out that the Environmental Impact Study has such a long list of deficiencies and identifies the fundamental issue of not having local support and then recommends approval, so this is very new to me," said Hart.

Presentations by Hart and his colleagues at the hearings in Mistissini last November identified serious deficiencies in Strateco's environmental impact data, particularly when it came to baseline data and water impacts.

"I can't say that I have read every Environmental Assessment Report that has come down the pipe, far from it, but it was quite striking," Hart recalled. "To me it was the disparity between the recommendation to approve and the significance of the inadequacies of the EIS that were just remarkable."

In a release, Mining Watch outlined several crucial weaknesses that the Federal Review Panel found in Strateco's proposal. They include:

- Poorly explained rationale of the need for the project
- Poorly described and selected methods of baseline data collection;
- Inadequate baseline data including wildlife and fish;
- Inadequate consideration of impacts on woodland caribou;
- Lack of a completed water balance;
- Inadequate eco-toxicology assessment;
- Inadequate consideration of cumulative effects;
- Inadequate consideration of traditional activities, culture and community life of the Cree;
- Lack of consideration for organizational structures integral to Cree society;



- Significant omissions in describing the impacts of increased access to the area;
- Incomplete appraisal of economic benefits;
- Highly speculative estimates for employment potential for local communities;
- Poor consideration of economic opportunities for Cree businesses.

Given the gravity of these issues, Hart believes that the panel's recommendation the project be approved is shockingly inconsistent with its own findings in the July 26 report.

"So, my big concern at this juncture is that despite the inadequacies of the environmental impact statement, the panel made a finding of no significant environmental affects, despite the fact that they don't have a water balance and despite the fact that their baseline studies are terrible," he concluded. "How you can with confidence say that this project will have no significant environmental affects when you don't have solid information?"

The federal report also presented a number of non-binding recommendations to the company. As Hart points out, however, regulatory agencies do not have the authority to ensure that these conditions are met once the project is approved.

The recommendations included: a revised baseline data program, a new

version of the ecological risk assessment that takes into consideration realistic scenarios and parameters, and an evaluation by the proponent, in collaboration with the Cree Nation of Mistissini, of the implementation of information sharing and communication mechanisms.

This collaboration, the panel said, should result in:

- A change in risk perception within Mistissini community;
- Consultations and collaboration with local and regional organizations, specifically with regard to hiring, supply and training objectives;
- Measures undertaken by the proponent to re-establish a dialogue and evaluate the band council's receptiveness to negotiating an agreement on the repercussions and benefits of the advanced exploration phase.

The Mistissini Band Council and community are still digesting the report and its unwelcome conclusions. Chief Richard Shecapio issued the following statement:

"The leadership of Mistissini has invested much time and energy to ensure we have understood the concerns and thoughts of our people regarding the future of our ancestral lands as it relates to the planned development proposed by Strateco Resources. Despite all the efforts we have made to demonstrate to decision makers that there exists a clear lack of information concerning advanced uranium exploration and how it is understood by the public, the Matoush project is again on the fast track to acquiring a license to operate," said Shecapio.

"For me this is not about whether we are pro-uranium or anti-uranium, or pro-mining or anti-mining. It is about

ensuring resource development on our traditional lands happens in a way that brings benefits to the Cree Nation, and doesn't compromise our future ability to practice our traditional way of life which is not only part of our history but also a key part of who we are today and what we need to continue to be in the future.

"It is our duty and right to protect our lands and shape our future! Therefore it is with the utmost gravity that we state that we do not ask but rather demand that Strateco, the

"THIS RULING POINTS OUT THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY HAS SUCH A LONG LIST OF DEFICIENCIES AND IDENTIFIES THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF NOT HAVING LOCAL SUPPORT AND THEN RECOMMENDS APPROVAL, SO THIS IS VERY NEW TO ME."

Quebec government, the federal government and all other concerned parties respect the voice of the people. The review panels' decision to send this project to the CNSC for a licensing hearing is premature considering that many, if not all, of the concerns raised by the Cree Nation of Mistissini have not been addressed, or presented to the community members....

"It is the view of this administration that before this project is granted a license, Strateco Resources Inc. must engage our community in an open dialogue to help community members understand what will happen when water, rock and air containing various forms of uranium is introduced to the environment. More importantly, Strateco must explain to community

members what is the worst that could happen to this fragile northern ecosystem if there was an accident?"

For his part, Mistissini Youth Chief Shawn Iserhoff is calling on Strateco President Guy Hebert to call off the uranium project because it is not consistent with Cree values, particularly when it comes to the environment.

"I along with the Youth Council will strive to ensure the voice of the Cree Youth of Mistissini is heard. If that means generating awareness through protests,

or gaining media attention on a global scale, we will not rest until we know uranium mining on Cree territory has been banned permanently," said Iserhoff.

Despite the Federal Review Panel recommendation, opponents will have at least one more chance to overturn regulatory approval the project. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission announced July 29 that it will soon hold hearings on Strateco's license application for the exploration ramp project.

There will be a 30-day consultation period once the commission makes its findings public. And, in the end, this could mean that Strateco could have its permit to begin building a uranium mine in Cree territory within a matter of months.

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Washaw Sibi chooses change

New Chief Pauline Hester achieves dream of leading community's recovery

By Amy German

As Washaw Sibi's newly elected Chief, Pauline Hester knows the struggles of her own people intimately, which is why she feels she is the perfect person to take the reins at this point in time.

Much like the rest of the Washaw Sibi people, Pauline Hester says that she is from all over. Her parents and grandparents lived on their trap line near La Sarre before being relocated to a French-speaking Algonquin community on the Pikogan Reserve by Indian Affairs.

Hester also spent her time in residential school and then moved on to the Gatineau-Hull area for high school.

The newly elected Chief for Washaw Sibi, who beat out incumbent Billy Katapatuk Sr. and Ronnie Trapper with 101 votes on July 26, said that leading her people is a dream she has had for a long time. From the way she tells it, looking back over the last 30 years, the 48-year-old explained that each portion of her life led up to this moment.

In 1980, Hester moved to Waskaganish, where she married her husband Tom the following year. She received her introduction to politics working at the band office as an accounting clerk, a front-row seat to the operations of leadership.

Eleven years later, Hester moved on to the school board where she worked under Gertie Murdoch, someone she says was also very influential in her life.

It was during that time that one day she went to church and then felt a sudden desire to get out and walk around by the coast of the Rupert River, from there she said that she began to hear this message to go back to her people.

"I went behind the Anglican Church in the cemetery and while looking at a grave I had a vision of the L'Escale Motel in Val d'Or. Behind that is a graveyard and all of my people are buried there along with most of the other people of Washaw Sibi. Seeing this, I heard a voice say, 'These are your people.' The voice went on to say, 'You came here for a purpose, to learn from these people, now, take what you have learned back to your people,'" said Hester.

"I GREW UP WITH THESE PEOPLE AND SO I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE COMING FROM. I UNDERSTAND WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN AND WHERE THEY WANT TO GO AND SO BEING CONNECTED WITH THEM IS IMPORTANT."

She moved back to the Amos area in 1999 and began to work for the people of Washaw Sibi. For two years Hester said that she served as the Director of the Washaw Sibi Nation. Wanting to learn how she could contribute more, Hester then made the decision to return to school, first at Lakehead University and then transferring to the University of Abitibi-Temisquamingue.

Graduating from the university with a BA in Administration, Hester then refined her leadership skills by working for the Cree School Board in Montreal as the Director of Post-Secondary Education.

It was not however until the recent death of Elder Dorothy

Polson that Hester knew that it was time for change again.

"You know the expression, when an Elder passes away, part of our culture dies. This affected me so much because I know how active these Elders have been in our movement and what we have been trying to get and Polson had been very active in this. She had always been encouraging with me, telling me that one day I would be our leader and run this place," said Hester.

And so when the opportunity came to run for Chief, she ran and won.

In the last few years the community has been working diligently at the process of establishing a new village, selecting an ideal portion of land and working these matters out with the Grand Council of the Cree.

Hester said it's now her job to continue this work while remaining connected to the people in Washaw Sibi, who are still displaced throughout the Abitibi-Temisquamingue region and the Cree communities.

"I grew up with these people and so I know where they are coming from. I understand where they have been and where they want to go and so being connected with them is important," said Hester.



MATOUSH EXPLORATION PROJECT PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED ON THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY REPORT

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) invites the public to comment on the Comprehensive Study Report for the proposed Matoush Exploration Project located north-east of Mistissini and Chibougamau on the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement* (JBNQA) territory.

The Comprehensive Study Report includes the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's conclusions and recommendations regarding the adverse environmental effects that are likely to result from the project, the significance of those effects, and appropriate measures that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects.

After this public comment period, the Minister of the Environment will review the Comprehensive Study Report along with public comments received and issue his environmental assessment decision statement.

The Comprehensive Study Report will be available on the Agency's Web site at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca, in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry under reference number 08-03-46115 as of August 15, 2011. To obtain a paper copy of the document, please communicate with the Project Manager listed in this notice. The document is also available for viewing at the following locations:

City Hall
145 Springer Boulevard, PO Box 380
Chapais QC G0W 1H0

Municipal Library
650 3rd Street
Chibougamau QC G8P 1P1

207 Opemiska Meskino
Oujé-Bougoumou QC G0W 3C0

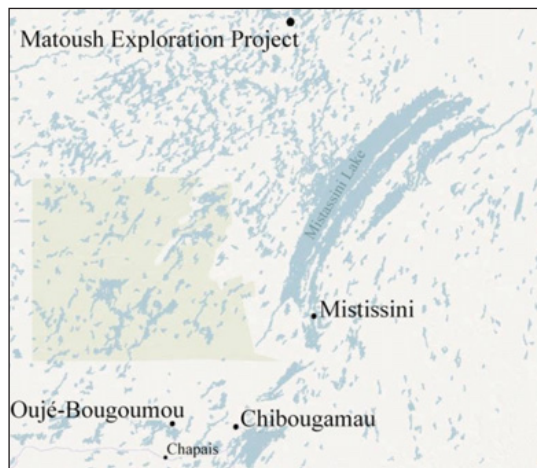
Isaac Shecapio Sr. Administration Building
187 Main Street
Mistissini QC G0W 1C0

1 Chief Louis R. Gull Street
Waswanipi QC J0Y 3C0

Interested individuals or groups are invited to send their comments **from August 15, 2011 to September 15, 2011**, in the official language of their choice to:

Matoush Exploration Project
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Alain Bourgeois, Project Manager
1141 route de l'Église, 2nd Floor
PO Box 9514, Ste-Foy Station
Québec QC G1V 4B8
Telephone: 418-649-6444
Fax: 418-649-6443
Matoush@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

All comments received will be considered public and will become part of the project file. This is the last of several public comment periods related to the environmental assessment of this project.



The Project/Location

Strateco Resources Inc. is proposing to construct an underground exploration ramp 260 kilometres north-east of Chibougamau in order to identify mineral resources with more precision and to determine the feasibility of a uranium mine.

The project is assessed as a comprehensive study, under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

For more information on this project, please visit the Agency's Web site at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Forest fires threaten First Nations communities

by Xavier Kataquapit

I am loving this hot, dry summer we are having, but it comes with a price. The problem is that many forest fires have been burning throughout Ontario and in particular Northern Ontario. This is a great time of the year for all of us to enjoy the outdoors but we must be aware that when the fire hazard is high we should not be having any campfires. It is necessary to remember that during these very hot and dry months the forest is like a giant tinderbox. The smallest ignition can result in a terrible fire that causes damage over thousands of hectares of wilderness forest.

Animals are also negatively affected by huge fires. They lose their habitat and in many cases are trapped and die in roaring blazes. In the worst-case situations forest fires threaten First Nation communities and sometimes ravage homes.

Forest fires are not easy to fight and it requires a lot of investment, time and money to deal with this problem. Fire fighters put their lives on the line to protect our forests and homes when blazes become out of control. All kinds of technology is involved in fighting fires and many First Nation people make up the teams deployed to extinguish these hot spots.

Most fires are actually caused by lightening so there is not much we can do to prevent those. However, many are started because people are not careful in making sure their campfires are properly extinguished. I never light a fire in a high fire hazard condition. When the conditions are good I make sure that when I am finished with my campfire I stamp it out and then pour water on the fire until I am sure it is out. I do not leave the fire site until I am sure of this.

The Cree of James Bay always had great respect for fire and Native people in general see life as revolving around fire. This element has always been a part of our traditional and cultural life and has helped us to survive over thousands of years. It gives us light, warmth and we use it to cook our food. Our elders and ancestors have always had great respect for fire and we have always been aware that fire has to be tended, controlled and cared for. If fire is unleashed in an irresponsible way then it can be very dangerous and destructive. We have many legends that deal with fire.

This summer First Nation people have had to deal with the out-of-control rage of many forest fires. More than 3,500 First Nation people from several communities have had to be evacuated from their homes. Some of these First Nations included Cat Lake, Keewaywin, Koocheching and Sandy Lake. It is really difficult for people to leave their homes and this is very hard on the elderly, sick and children. I am sad to see so many people uprooted from their First Nations and flown out to find shelter and safety in other towns and cities. It is great that they are finding a safe place to escape to but at the same time I know that these people are frightened, anxious about being forced out of their homes and they are worried about their possessions back in their communities.

Thank goodness we have so many caring, giving and kind people in communities like Matachewan First Nation, Greenstone, Kapuskasing and Smith Falls who have organized to assist so many Native people who have been evacuated for their safety. In my area I give a heartfelt thanks (meegwetch) to Matachewan First Nation Chief Alex (Sonny) Batisse and Councillors Jean Lemieux, Leonil Boucher, Eleanore Hendrix, Robert Batisse and Gail Brubacher.

It is not easy to volunteer to organize and care for so many evacuees on short notice. This is a huge challenge for a small First Nation like Matachewan and for the other towns involved. There are all kinds of support services that have to be put in place and people have to dedicate a lot of time, money and energy to ensure the evacuees are safe and comfortable while away from home. Thanks must also be given to all of those courageous Ministry Of Natural Resources fire fighters and personnel who are dedicated to keeping our people and forests safe. You can go to www.mnr.gov.on.ca to look for information on forest fires to find out what the fire hazard level is for an area and to see what fires are active.

It seems like the worst of the fire season is over and people are returning to their homes. We can only hope that somehow Mother Earth provides us with a balance for the rest of the summer so that the fire hazard level is low and we can still enjoy many warm and sunny days.

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I want to congratulate and say good luck to my sunshine

Lizzie-Ann Whiskeychan, who will begin pre-kindergarten in August 2011. I love so much. Maman Lyne.

Congratulations Kayleigh Spencer! way to go! Your mom & dad must be very proud. enjoy your trip & take lots of pics for us. an old babysitter & your mom's ex-colleague, Line Marcil

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The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:

1-866-403-4688.
(www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:

1-866-277-3553

Residential School Survivors:

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- You will manage, coordinate and maintain the Niskamoon Corporation Website and approved Social Media solutions for all programs in relation to promotion and marketing activities;
- Using approved news mediums, you will prepare and deliver publicity programs and information materials to increase awareness of Niskamoon Corporation Programs;
- Plan, organize and oversee preparation of the publicity events, annual reports, briefs, presentations and press releases as well as initiate and maintain contact with the Media for interviews and news conferences;
- Oversee proper promotion and advertising of the TEHQ Program Recruitment Campaign events and activities;
- You will also maintain and coordinate administrative

procedures to facilitate and expedite processes, develop administrative guidelines for the high school based projects and implement, administer and monitor the high school science projects and student orientation trips as approved by Niskamoon Corporation and in accordance with established policy as well as provide updates and reports;

- Make recommendations and assist in implementing and administering the TEHQ program policies and procedures including the Summer Student Employment Program and assist in yearly budget preparation activities in your sector of activity;
- You may be asked to train other staff members in his/her area of operations, make appropriate recommendations in his/her area of operations;
- May be asked to perform any other related duties and functions.

Your Profile

- You hold a Bachelor's Degree in Administration, Public Administration, Communications, Marketing or other related field or you have training or four (4) years of experience in a relevant field which may compensate for lack in qualifications;
- You are fluent in Cree, French and English (mandatory), you have excellent communication and interpersonal skills as important assets;
- You also have a written knowledge of English and are Computer literate and knowledgeable of mainstream software (ie. Microsoft Office) is MANDATORY;
- Niskamoon Corporation may at its discretion waive any or all of the aforementioned requirements if it finds a suitable candidate who is a beneficiary of the JBNQA and who accepts, as a condition of employment, to follow a training plan determined by Niskamoon Corporation.

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SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
KATHY SHECAPIO, Director General
Via email: kshecapio@niskamoon.org
Via fax: 514-285-1441

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Friday, August 19, 2011

The official job description is available upon request.